

ticed the evident depression of the land along the eastern coast of Scotland, from which he inferred that the level of the German Ocean must have been greatly altered, and was inclined to believe that the similarity of the Floras of this country and of Norway and Sweden might be accounted for by supposing that these countries were at one time united to Britain.

2. Read extracts from a letter from Dr. W. H. Campbell of Demerara, giving an account of an excursion up the Essequibo river, in the course of which he saw *Victoria regia* in a lake or lagoon, about half a day's journey above the Itabally Rapids. He described the petioles as densely covered with prickles, and varying from fifteen to twenty feet in length, the leaf itself being five to six feet long. He also procured specimens of the root and bark of the plant which yields the Hiarry poison, which he describes as a huge *bush-rope* or climber. Unfortunately neither the *Victoria* nor Hiarry plant was in flower. The latter is being analysed by Dr. Sheer, the agricultural chemist at Demerara.

Dr. Douglas MacLagan stated that he had already made an analysis of the Hiarry root, and had detected a peculiar volatile acid to which he believed the poisonous properties of the plant were due.

3. Read a supplement to a "Synopsis of the British Rubi," by Charles C. Babington, M.A. (see *Annals*, vol. xix. p. 17.)

Specimens of *Trichenium*, collected by Dr. Learmouth in Australia, were exhibited, and the peculiar structure of the calycine hairs shown under the microscope.

In the report of the last meeting of the Society, *Thorea ramosissima* was inadvertently stated to have been found at Studley, Yorkshire; and *Hormospora mutabilis* in the Thames, near Walton. It should have been the reverse.

At this meeting the election of office-bearers for the ensuing year took place, when Dr. R. K. Greville was elected President, and Dr. Archd. Inglis, Sir William Jardine, Bart., Professor Balfour, and Rev. Dr. Fleming, Vice-presidents.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Description of an Agaric new to the British Flora.

AGARICUS CAPERATUS.—*Pileus* convex, orbiculate, obtusely umbonate, even, very dry, of a uniform gall-stone yellow, usually paler about the top, covered with a mealy powder of the same colour, which in some places is gathered into an imperfect scaliness, the margin inflexed, entire or more or less sinuated: *veil* as thick as writing-paper, persistent, stretched between the margin and stem, to which it is closely attached, thickly covered with the same powder as the pileus, but more distinctly squamulose: *flesh* thick, solid and firm, white, not changing colour, mild and insipid in taste. *Gills* numerous, adnate, four in a set, dry and smooth, sienna-yellow, juiceless: *sporules* elliptical, very light honey-yellow. *Stem* cylindrical, as thick as a man's thumb, erect and solid, the root rounded but not bulbous, whitened with the mycelia, the shaft of the same

colour as the pileus, paler on the lower half, covered with the ochraceous powder or slightly squamulose, the flesh white, yellowish under the epidermis; the portion of stalk within the veil is pale, a very little fibrillose, but not powdered. Diameter of the pileus 3 inches; height of the stem 5 inches, the diameter nearly an inch; breadth of the gills $\frac{2}{10}$ ths. From the woods at Anton's-hill, September 16, 1845.

This truly magnificent agaric was ascertained satisfactorily to be the *Agaricus caperatus* of 'Fl. Dan.' t. 1675, by the Rev. M. J. Berkeley, to whom a specimen was sent. It is not the *Ag. caperatus* of the 'English Flora,' nor the *Ag. pudicus* of Bulliard; and is a beautiful addition to the already extensive list of British species, for which we are indebted to the researches of Miss Anne Hunter, an honorary member of the Club. The spores, Mr. Berkeley says, are very peculiar. "Its greatest peculiarity," says Miss Anne Hunter, "is its being so profusely covered over its pileus, curtain and stem with a yellowish powder, in such quantities as to make it disagreeable to gather, as gloves and everything it came in contact with was covered. And I am much struck with the toughness and permanency of the curtain, which remains after the pileus has attained its full size."

When small and young the pileus is obtusely campanulate, but in other respects it does not differ from the mature plant. Miss Hunter has found it on one spot only in the wood behind the house of Anton's-hill, and there sparingly. Like most of its genus it is eaten greedily by slugs and the maggot of a dipterous fly; and it seems to be, says Miss Hunter, "a most favourite food of a sort of beetle," which permits very few specimens to attain maturity without great mutilation.—*From the Transactions of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club*, vol. ii. p. 174.

Description of a new British Sponge. By Dr. JOHNSTON.

HALICHONDRIA MACULARIS.

Sponge forming a thin circular spot one or two lines in thickness, and rather more than an inch in diameter, of a wax-yellow colour, spongy texture, but not reticular, and soft when recent; the surface even, somewhat hirsute, with pores invisible or scarcely visible to the naked eye, and no fecal orifices. *Spicula* numerous, long and straight, needle-shaped, smooth; they are all alike in figure and do not much differ in length.

This is amongst the least attractive of its genus. The only species to which it is closely allied is the *Halichondria sanguinea*, from which it is distinguished by its colour and less fleshy texture, and by the straightness of the spicula. These are remarkable for their length; and the obtuse head is very slightly sinuated a little below the extremity, but it requires a high magnifier to discover this character.

This new species was found spreading, lichen-like, on the inner surface of an old valve of *Cyprina islandica*, which was brought up, from a depth of about thirty-five fathoms, by the baited lines of our fishermen.—*Ibid.* p. 196.